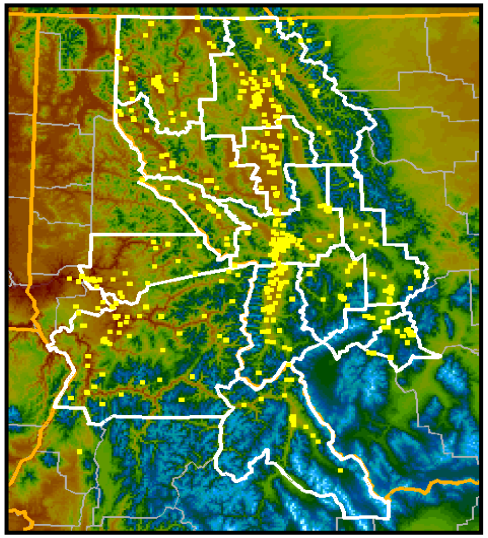
The National Weather Service Severe Weather Spotter Program

The National Weather Service Severe Weather Spotter program is comprised of a group of volunteers who report significant or severe weather whenever it occurs. Severe weather spotters are people like you who come from all walks of life. They are:

- Your neighbors, friends or family
- Schools and Universities
- Ski and Summer resorts
- Amateur radio operators
- Law enforcement and Emergency Responders
- Forest and Park Service, State and Local Agencies



There are more than 800 Severe Weather Spotters across Western Montana and North Central Idaho. We need your help.

Becoming a Spotter

The process is easy. All that you have to do is register with us and either attend a Severe Weather Spotter training session or complete the training online at:

http://www.weather.gov/mso/spotter/

Spotter Reporting

We need to hear from you whenever severe weather occurs in your area. Our office is fully staffed around-the-clock and is ready to receive your report.

To Report Severe Weather, call NWS Missoula at (406) 329-4840.

How to Report:
Who you are
What you observed
Where the event occurred:
(Exact location and county)
When the event occurred
Damage that you witnessed

What to Report:
Tornado, funnel cloud and waterspout
High wind - estimated or measured >40 mph
Heavy rain - ½" or more per hour
Flooding - of any kind
Hail - any size
Visibility reduced to less than ¼ mile
Heavy snow - one inch or more per hour
Weather related damage or injuries

Estimating Wind Speed

Most wind damage from thunderstorms is caused by straight-line winds (also known as downbursts). When reporting wind speed, remember to include whether the report was measured or estimated, the time of the event and describe any damage. If you cannot measure the wind speed, use the table below:

25-30 mph:	Large branches move; whistling heard in wires.
30-40 mph:	Whole trees move.
40-45 mph:	Twigs and small branches break; walking impeded.
45-55 mph:	Larger branches and weak limbs may break; slight structural damage occurs.
55-65 mph:	Moderate structural and tree damage occur.
65 mph +:	Heavy to severe structural and tree damage occur.

Measuring Hail

The best way to report hail is to use a ruler to measure the diameter of the largest piece of hail. If no ruler is available, use the size of known object to report its size. Pea, penny, nickel, quarter, ping pong, golf ball, hen egg, base ball, and golf ball are the most common objects used when estimating hail size. Do not use a marble as an estimate for hail size. *(Marbles come in all shapes and sizes.)*

NOAA All-Hazards Weather Radio across Western Montana and North Central Idaho

NOAA All-Hazards Weather Radio reaches nearly 90 percent of the public from over 900 stations nationwide. Established in 1975, NOAA Weather Radio broadcasts on seven frequencies in the VHF band, ranging from 162.400 to 162.550 MHz. NOAA All-Hazards Weather Radio stations serving the area include:

Alberton, MT	162.400 MHz
Anaconda, MT	162.550 MHz
Butte, MT	162.550 MHz
Columbia Falls, MT	162.550 MHz
Deer Lodge, MT	162.550 MHz
Eureka, MT	162.550 MHz
Florence, MT	162.400 MHz
Grangeville, ID	162.550 MHz
Hamilton, MT	162.400 MHz
Kalispell, MT	162.550 MHz
Lowell, ID	162.550 MHz
Missoula, MT	162.400 MHz
Orofino, ID	162.550 MHz
Pierce, ID	162.550 MHz
Polson, MT	162.550 MHz
Ronan, MT	162.550 MHz
Saint Regis, MT	162.550 MHz
Seeley Lake, MT	162.550 MHz
Stevensville, MT	162.400 MHz
Thompson Falls, MT	162.400 MHz
West Glacier, MT	162.550 MHz
Whitefish, MT	162.550 MHz

National Weather Service Office
6633 Aviation Way
Missoula, Montana 59808
(406) 329-4840
weather.gov/Missoula

Information For Severe Weather Spotters

National Weather Service
Missoula, MT

SKYWARN